

April Climate Summary

ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
GRAND RAPIDS MI

David Beachler

April continued as March ended. Temperatures remained above normal through the first week of April. Cool conditions briefly returned to Southwest Lower Michigan to round out the first ten days of April; however, this was shortly lived. A deep trough moved into the Southwest United States, allowing ridging and warm conditions across the eastern United States towards the middle of the month. A series of shortwaves moved northeast across the central plains states, and into the Great Lakes region near the middle of the month.

Severe weather developed on the 14th of April, with hail being reported in Muskegon. As a cold front swept through Lower Michigan, temperatures cooled a few degrees; however, average temperatures remained above normal. Ridging moved back into the region around the 18th and 19th. Despite the previous several weeks of above normal conditions in West Central and Southwest Lower Michigan, vegetation growth slowed due to the lack of precipitation. For the period of April 15th through the 28th, Grand Rapids reported 0.05" of precipitation. Lansing reported 0.11", and Muskegon 0.12".

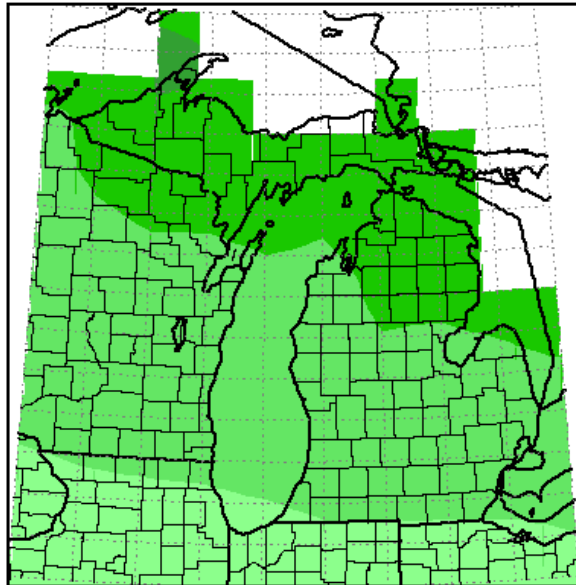
The second round of severe weather for April arrived on the 22nd. Large hail was the main threat from this event, with one inch diameter hail reported in Jackson and Ingham counties.

The final days of April observed a changed in the jet stream pattern, to an early to mid spring setup. Ridging was moving into the Southwestern United States, with a trough located across the Great Lakes and Northeast United States. This allowed temperatures to be cooler in West and Southwest Lower Michigan. The cool trend was expected to persist through the first few days of May.

April 2006

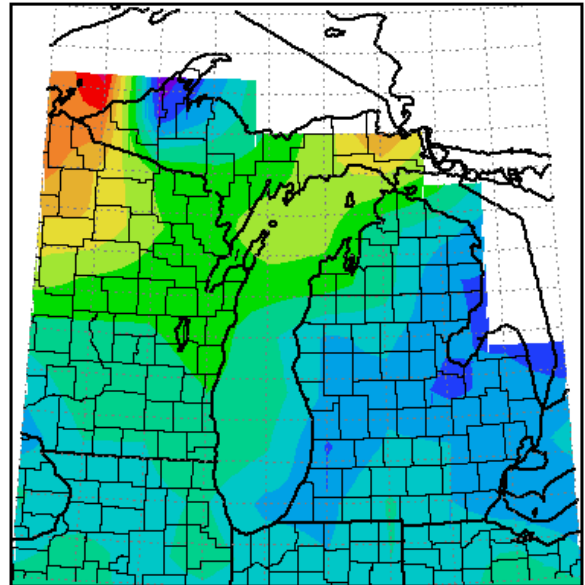
Site:	Temperature	Precipitation	Snowfall
Grand Rapids	50.6° F	2.22 Inches	T Inches
Normal	46.3° F	3.48 Inches	2.8 Inches
Departure	4.3° F	-1.26 Inches	-2.8 Inches
Lansing	50.3° F	1.82 Inches	0.2 Inches
Normal	45.5° F	3.09 Inches	2.5 Inches
Departure	4.8° F	-1.27 Inches	-2.3 Inches
Muskegon	48.8° F	3.03 Inches	T Inches
Normal	44.9° F	2.91 Inches	3.1 Inches
Departure	3.9° F	0.12 Inches	-3.1 Inches

Average Temperature in Degrees F
April 1, 2006 to April 30, 2006



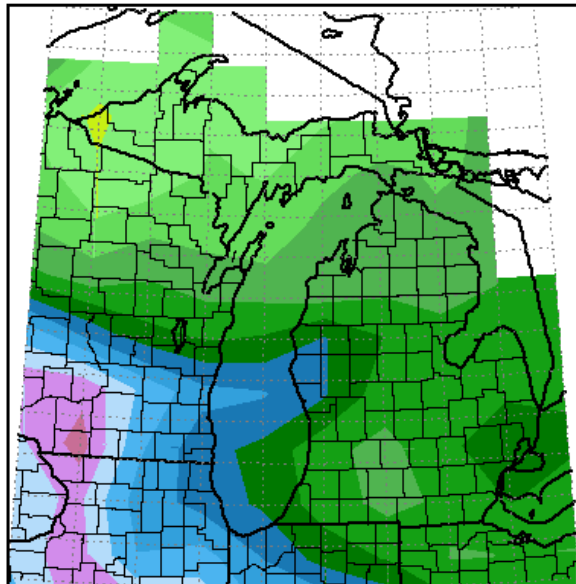
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Midwestern Regional Climate Center
Illinois State Water Survey
Champaign, Illinois

Average Temperature Departure from Mean in Degrees F
April 1, 2006 to April 30, 2006



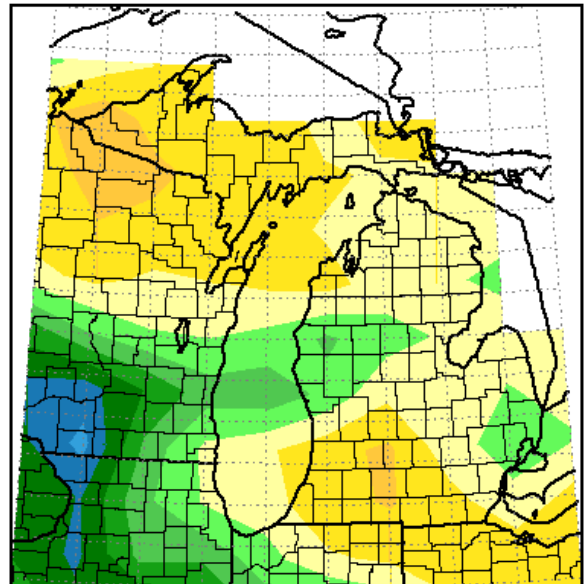
2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5 5 5.5 6 6.5 7 7.5 8
Midwestern Regional Climate Center
Illinois State Water Survey
Champaign, Illinois

Total Precipitation in Inches
April 1, 2006 to April 30, 2006



0.01 0.1 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5 5 5.5 6
Midwestern Regional Climate Center
Illinois State Water Survey
Champaign, Illinois

Total Precipitation Departure from Mean in Inches
April 1, 2006 to April 30, 2006



-2.5 -2 -1.5 -1 -0.5 0 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5
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